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ABSTRACT

As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This ERIC Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet (resources and addresses are subject to change). Question answering services, electronic discussion groups, and Usenet newsgroups are listed. (AEF)

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**An Introduction to Internet Resources
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Part II: Question Answering, Electronic
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By:

Nancy A. Morgan, Updated by AskERIC Staff

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators

Part II: Question Answering, Electronic Discussion Groups, Newsgroups, Update 1999

by Nancy A. Morgan, Updated by AskERIC Staff

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet. Readers should be aware that the resources and their Internet addresses below are subject to change.

Question Answering:

The number of services that use electronic mail to deliver information is increasing. Services that teachers will find on the Internet include:

- **AskERIC:** AskERIC is the Internet-based education information service of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) system, headquartered at the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology at Syracuse University. Teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others involved in education can send a message requesting education information to AskERIC. AskERIC information specialists will respond within two working days with ERIC database searches, ERIC Digests, and Internet resources. The benefit of the personalized service is that it allows AskERIC staff to interact with the user and provide relevant education resources tailored to the user's needs.
✉ E-mail: askeric@askeric.org
- **AskERIC Virtual Library:** Resources developed from questions received at AskERIC are archived at the AskERIC Virtual Library:
✉ <http://www.askeric.org>
- **KidsConnect:** KidsConnect is a question-answering, help and referral service for K-12 students on the Internet. The goal of KidsConnect is to help students access and use the information available on the Internet effectively and efficiently. KidsConnect is a component of ICONnect, a technology initiative of AASL (American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association). Students use e-mail to contact KidsConnect and receive a response from a volunteer library media specialist within two school days.
✉ E-mail: AskKC@ala.org
✉ <http://www.ala.org/ICONN/kidsconn.html>
- **Internet Public Library Ask-A-Question Service:** Answers all types of general reference questions. You'll get a brief factual answer if you've asked a specific question, or, if you have a broader topic of interest, you'll get a short list of sources that you can use to explore your topic further. IPL's website also contains an extensive online collection of library resources.
✉ <http://www.ipl.org/ref/QUE/>
- **Ask Dr. Math:** "Ask Dr. Math," a service for elementary, middle, and high school students, is administered by students and professors at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA.
✉ E-mail: dr.math@forum.swarthmore.edu
✉ <http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html>
- **The MAD Scientist Network:** The MAD Scientist Network is an "Ask-A-Scientist" service run entirely on the WWW. They answer questions in chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth sciences, the biological sciences and more. More than 500 scientists at institutions around the world provide answers to science questions.
✉ <http://www.madsci.org>
- **Ask A+ Locator:** The AskA+ Locator is a database of high-quality "AskA" services designed to link students, teachers, parents, and other K-12 community members with experts on the Internet. Profiles of each AskA service include identification information (e.g., publisher, e-mail address, contact person, links to services' home pages), scope, target audience, and a general description of the service. The Ask A+ Locator is searchable by subject, keyword, grade level, or alphabetical list. Ask A+ Locator is part of the Virtual Reference Desk.
✉ <http://www.vrd.org/locator/index.html>

Electronic Discussion Groups:

- **ECENET-L:** Early childhood education, to age 8.
✉ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe ECENET-L your FirstName LastName
✉ Archives: http://askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives
✉ <http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/ecenet-l.html>
- **EDNET:** Forum on educational possibilities of the Net.
✉ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listproc@lists.umass.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe EDNET your FirstName LastName
✉ Archives: http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/EDNET-List.html
- **Edres-L** (also called C-EDRES): Educational Resources on the Internet.
✉ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.unb.ca
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe Edres-L your FirstName LastName
- **EDTECH:** Educational Technology.
✉ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@msu.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.

- In the body of the message type: subscribe Edtech your
FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~edweb>
☞ http://askerik.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/EDTECH.html
- **K12ADMIN:** K12 educational administration.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.syr.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe K12 Admin your
FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: http://www.askerik.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/K12ADMIN-List.html
- **KIDLINK:** Kidlink Society runs several listservs in support of a global dialog for students 10-15 years of age. Subscribe to KIDLINK listserv to receive information about the other lists.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.nodak.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe Kidlink your
FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: <http://listserv.nodak.edu/archives/kidlink.html>
☞ KIDLINK Home Page: <http://www.kidlink.org>
- **LM_NET:** School library/media services.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.syr.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe LM_NET your
FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: http://www.askerik.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/LM_NET.html
☞ Web: http://ericir.syr.edu/lm_net/
- **MIDDLE-L:** Education of children 10-14 years of age.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe Middle-L your
FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: http://www.askerik.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/MIDDLE-L.html
☞ <http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/middle-l.html>
- **NET-HAPPENINGS:** Internet related news and announcements.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@cs.wisc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, type: subscribe Net-Happenings
your FirstName LastName
☞ Archives: <http://www.scout.c.wisc.edu/scout/net-hap/index.html>
- **SPECED-L:** Special education issues discussion.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe SPECED-L your
FirstName LastName
- **TAG-L:** General discussion about all topics related to gifted children.
☞ To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.NODAK.EDU
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message type: subscribe Tag-L your
FirstName LastName

Usenet Newsgroups:

- Usenet Newsgroups are an electronic bulletin board system, accessible via the Internet, that consists of discussion forums on literally thousands of topics. Users should contact their system operator for instructions. Some of the Usenet Newsgroups are:
 - ☞ **k12.chat.teacher**-General discussion between K-12 Teachers
 - ☞ **k12.ed.art**-Arts and Crafts Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.business**-Business Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.comp.literacy**-Teaching computer literacy in grades K-12
 - ☞ **k12.library**-Implementing Info Technologies in school libraries
 - ☞ **k12.ed.life-skills**-Life Skills Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.math**-Mathematics Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.music**-Music and Performing Arts
 - ☞ **k12.ed.science**-Science Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.soc-studies**-Social Studies Education
 - ☞ **k12.ed.special**-Educating students with special needs

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